

Why is CAFOD holding Memorial Masses?

Remembrance is a very important part of Catholic tradition, where our roots lie. The Church encourages us to remember those who have died, especially in November.

This is the 13th year CAFOD has held Memorial Masses. Sadly, many supporters who have helped to shape and grow our organisation are no longer with us; so we take time each year to show our gratitude by having Mass said for them, and for loved ones deeply missed by our present supporters.

We feel it's the least we can do to say thank you for the amazing commitment and generosity past and present supporters have shown. We can't plant trees, erect plaques or name buildings after people, but we can offer our prayers.

Why have I been invited?

We have invited a selection of supporters, such as Candlelight Fund organisers, people who have given in memory of a loved one, and other supporters who live locally or have shown that CAFOD's work really means a lot to them.

We know that not everyone will be able to attend but we hope that there is some comfort in knowing their loved ones are being remembered in this way. We also want to give supporters the opportunity to add a name to our Books of Remembrance, which are presented at each Mass.

How much are these events costing?

Each parish holding a Memorial Mass is kindly doing so free of charge, as they know how many people appreciate them. Our volunteers will arrange for simple refreshments following the service.

Is CAFOD taking advantage of people's grief?

This is certainly not our intention. Each year, around 2,000 people commemorate a loved one by donating to CAFOD's work. Many of our supporters have told us how much they appreciate these Masses as an opportunity to give thanks and remember their loved ones, something that can be difficult in our busy society. The Masses are simply our way of paying tribute to the supporters we are incredibly grateful for.

Is it an excuse for fundraising?

These Masses are not fundraising events and no donations will be asked for. For those attending who may want to find out more about our work, or about donating in memory of loved ones, literature will be available and there will be a CAFOD representative to answer any questions.

I don't want another invite for a Memorial Mass, ever!

We're sorry for any offence or distress that may have been caused by our invite. Please rest assured this was not our intention. Please let us know and we'll make sure not to invite you to our future Memorial Masses.

Can I add a name to the Books of Remembrance?

Of course, just let us know the name of your loved one and we will be sure to have their name added to the Books of Remembrance.

How can I find out more about supporting CAFOD in memory of a loved one?

You can speak to Roisin in our Legacy and Remembrance Team by calling her on 020 7095 5348 or emailing remembrance@cafod.org.uk

[Any more questions? Please call Roisin on 020 7095 5348](tel:02070955348)